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Epstein and Mandelson: Fabian PM Starmer's New Scandal May Bring Him Down

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is facing a rebellion in his own Labour Party from Members of Parliament who are outraged over his coverup of Peter Mandelson's long relationship with high-flying child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, whom Mandelson called his "best pal."

"I think the world of you," Mandelson told the convicted pedophile in 2008 before Epstein began his prison sentence.

"I can still barely understand it. It just could not happen in Britain," Mandelson wrote. "You have to be incredibly resilient, fight for early release and be philosophical about it as much as you can."

Perhaps the renewed scrutiny of Mandelson will extend to his sordid past as a member of the Communist Party and the Fabian Society, as well as his membership in the globalist Trilateral Commission, the Bilderberg group, and the European Commission. (See next story below.)

Starmer already knew of Mandelson's Epstein ties when he appointed him to be the British Ambassador to the United States in February 2025. But he was forced to sack him last September after the Epstein connection became a public scandal. Now the January 30, 2026, release by the Trump Department of Justice of more than 3 million pages of documents, 2,000 videos, and 180,000 images has shown the Epstein-Mandelson ties to be even worse than previously acknowledged. Among that vast cache are documents that appear to show Lord Mandelson and his "husband," Reinaldo Avila da Silva, receiving a considerable sum of dollars in dispersed payments from Epstein. Documents also suggest that Mandelson provided Epstein with sensitive government information. This resurrects the suspicions of Epstein's involvement in espionage, bribery, and blackmail.

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The UK's leftist *Guardian's* story for February 4, titled "Labour MPs say Starmer's days as PM are numbered amid fury over Mandelson," reports: "Labour MPs have warned that Keir Starmer's days as prime minister are numbered after a day of fury over the appointment of Peter Mandelson as US ambassador despite his friendship with Jeffrey Epstein." MPs are calling for Starmer to release documents about the Mandelson appointment and his relationship with Epstein. However, Starmer claims that the documents must be sealed because they are subject to a police investigation. Starmer has claimed that he didn't know the full extent of Mandelson's association with Epstein when he appointed him. His allies are attempting to shift blame to Starmer's top aide, Morgan McSweeney. Meanwhile, Mandelson has resigned from the Labour Party as well as from the House of Lords.

Like Starmer, Peter Mandelson is a longtime member of the Fabian Society, Britain's oldest and most influential socialist organization. Founded in 1884, the Society's famous leaders, including George Bernard Shaw and Sidney and Beatrice Webb, were among the earliest and most prominent boosters of the Bolshevik Revolution and Lenin's Soviet state. In England, they adopted the Fabian stealth strategy of gradual "penetration and permeation" of all institutions and all levels of society.

The Fabians' primary political vehicle has been the Labour Party, which they have dominated for the past century. The Fabian Society's website boasts of this dominance and notes that they also have a hegemonic influence in the Starmer government:

> We are affiliated to the Labour party and work very closely with Labour politicians, as well as influencing debate across the political spectrum. ***Every Labour prime minister has been a Fabian and today 100s of Labour politicians are members of the society, including Labour leader Keir Starmer MP and more than half his cabinet, as well as senior figures in devolved and local government.*** [Emphasis added.] Our elected executive committee currently includes five Labour frontbenchers.

In May 2024, during the runup to the July elections, the Fabian Society gave Starmer this sendoff:

> Every single Labour prime minister has been a Fabian and if Labour wins in July Keir Starmer will join their ranks. Keir was a Fabian before he was elected to parliament, and served on our executive committee. In 2021, he wrote The Road Ahead, a Fabian pamphlet setting out his vision of a fairer, more secure and prosperous Britain, built on Labour values.

A political insider who has been in and out of government for decades, the thrice-disgraced Mandelson earned the sobriquet "Prince of Darkness" for his devious, scheming ways. Mandelson served in senior government posts under Labour prime ministers Tony Blair (another Fabian member) between 1997 and 2001, and Gordon Brown (also a Fabian) from 2008 to 2010. He twice had to resign from positions in the Blair government due to scandals over ethics. But he was protected by powers behind the throne, so he always seemed to fail upward and land in a new position of influence. Between 2004 and 2008, he was the European Union's trade commissioner. In that role, he joined with fellow EU globalists Jean Claude Junker, Jacques Chirac, Jose Manuel Barroso, and Valery Giscard d'Estaing in calling for a revote after French and Dutch voters rejected the proposed EU Constitution that would have completely destroyed their national sovereignty. Their original plan was to continue with revotes until opponents were bought off or worn out and the constitution finally passed. But Mandelson and his Bilderberg confreres came up with an alternative plan that was even more devious: the Lisbon Treaty. They camouflaged the key elements of the proposed EU Constitution and crammed them into the treaty so they could, in essence, enact the EU Constitution under a different label without subjecting it to repeated defeats in

national referendums. It worked. It was a replay of their Maastricht Treaty scheme that overcame national opposition to the transformation of the European Community (EC) into the European Union (EU) with expanded EU powers and a new EU currency, the euro.

Mandelson again played a central role in the globalist Deep State effort to defeat Brexit, the successful 2016 effort by British voters to take Great Britain out of the European Union. Mandelson served on the board of *Britain Stronger in Europe*, the official "Remain" campaign opposing Brexit, and was known as a leading "Remainiac."

Now he is known as toxic, and erstwhile "friends" are running from him. Starmer Health Secretary Wes Streeting, a fellow homosexual Labourite, released WhatsApp messages between himself and Mandelson, intending to convince the public that media coverage linking him closely to Mandelson is bunk. "Contrary to what has been widely reported, I was not a close friend of Peter Mandelson," he wrote in a February 9 op-ed in *The Guardian*, although Streeting admitted his live-in "partner," Joe Dancey, got his start in Labour politics working under Mandelson. Oops! Not real convincing, and with things starting to get real messy Starmer moved quickly to prevent any other loose lips, warning the rest of his officials not to release any messages. All releases, he said, must be done in a "managed process" by the government. *His* government, of course. But Starmer's reign at 10 Downing Street may soon be over. The Mandelson-Epstein affair is but one of a tsunami of *scandals du jour* that have many erstwhile supporters among the Labour MPs now calling for his resignation. The scandal crisis includes: the Matthew Doyle-Sean Morton serial child sex offender scandal; the Pakistani "grooming gangs" scandal; the mass migration crisis; the China spies national security row; the Chinese Mega-Embassy scandal; and more. — William F. Jasper

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For more on the Mandelson Bilderberg/CFR/RIIA globalist elites and their Brexit-EU machinations, see:

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Epstein-Starmer-Mandelson: The Communist-Fabian-Bilderberg-Rothschild-Trilateralist-Russia-China-Mossad Scandal Is Bigger than a Mere Sex Scandal

While the scandal of Jeffrey Epstein and British Insider Peter Mandelson shakes Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government, there is an equally (if not more) important and too little-known scandal involving Mandelson's longstanding ties to communist-socialist radicals and globalist elites. In fact, "scandal" does not adequately

convey the seriousness of what is patently a national security/global security threat.

Mandelson, whose name appears in the recently released Epstein files nearly 6,000 times, is being criminally investigated for bribery, corruption, and espionage, with critics calling his actions outright treason. The 72-year-old Mandelson has held key positions in Labour governments from Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Gordon Brown to the current Starmer regime (from which he was fired as UK ambassador to the U.S. due to revelations about his Epstein connections). However, Mandelson's *very* checkered background extends backward long prior to any Epstein ties. As a young adult he was a member of the Young Communist League, the hardcore, Stalinist, Moscow-directed Soviet front. He went to Communist Cuba as a British delegate to the Soviet-run World Youth Festival. He also joined the Young Fabians and has been a Fabian Society influence in Labour. While adopting a more moderate posture in later years, he has nevertheless (like Tony Blair) pushed for increased business and diplomatic ties to both Russia and China. His ties to Russian billionaire oligarch Oleg Deripaska (a close Putin crony), which stirred outcries years ago, have now resurfaced due to the Epstein files. Mandelson's chummy connections to Xi Jinping and the CCP, a source of concern years ago, have also taken on renewed interest, particularly in light of Starmer's craven caving to Beijing on matters of grave national security.

All the more concerning is the intertwining of Mandelson's Russia-China affairs with Jeffrey Epstein, the Israeli Mossad (especially in the person of Ehud Barak), and the Rothschild banking dynasty. Barak's name appears in the files nearly 8,000 times. The names of various Rothschild scions (Ariane de Rothschild, Edmund de Rothschild, Jacob Rothschild, James Rothschild, Benjamin de Rothschild, Evelyn de Rothschild, Lady Lynn de Rothschild) and Rothschild business entities (NM Rothschild & Sons, Banque Rothschild, Merchant Banking Rothschild, etc.) appear in the DOJ Epstein files nearly 12,000 times. What to make of all of this? Sorting out the details will be a long, ongoing process. However, Andrew Muller's "Deep State Fixer: Epstein's Ties to Rothschilds and Trilateral Commission Exposed" is a revealing early deep dive into this long-hidden murky quagmire. See also Alex Newman's Behind the Deep State video "Reviewing the Epstein Files—Biggest Scandal Ever? Part 1." Stay tuned; much more coming. — William F. Jasper

A Turning Point in Gender Care? From Lawsuit Victory to Institutional 180s

Fox Varian, a 22-year-old New Yorker, is changing America's perspective on so-called gender-affirming care for minors. At 16, Varian had undergone a double mastectomy, a procedure her doctors presented as essential for alleviating her gender dysphoria. But years later, having detransitioned, she sued psychologist Kenneth Einhorn and surgeon Simon Chin for medical malpractice, alleging they rushed her into irreversible surgery without proper evaluation. On January 30, a Westchester County jury sided with her, awarding $2 million — $1.6 million for pain and suffering, $400,000 for future medical costs — in the nation's first such case to reach a verdict. Varian's lawyers argued the professionals ignored co-existing conditions like depression and autism, pressuring her with claims that surgery was the only path forward. Her mother, Claire Deacon, testified she consented out of fear after the doctors told her that her daughter might commit suicide if she didn't have the procedure, a tactic she called manipulative.

The verdict ignited a firestorm online. Conservative voices hailed it as justice against "child mutilation," with

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posts decrying the medical community's haste. Detransitioner advocates like Chloe Cole praised it as a "massive precedent," predicting a wave of litigation bigger than tobacco settlements.

Yet, LGBTQ+ groups countered that the case hinged on informed consent flaws, not the validity of gender care itself. "This case was a medical malpractice case, not a referendum on gender-affirming care," the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) said in a statement responding to the verdict. "When care is delivered ethically and responsibly within these guidelines, the integrity of the field is strengthened."

However, ripple effects quickly showed themselves. On February 4, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) and American Medical Association (AMA) — two powerhouse institutions — revised their stances, recommending delaying gender-related surgeries until age 19 due to "insufficient evidence" of benefits outweighing risks. Citing European reviews like the UK's Cass Report, which deemed evidence "remarkably weak," the groups diverged from organizations like WPATH, which maintains cautious access for minors under guidelines. On his show, Scott Jennings called it a "political earthquake," attributing the shift to President Trump's 2024 reelection, which ended "intimidation" and prioritized evidence over ideology.

This pivot aligns with federal actions: In December 2025, the Department of Health and Human Services proposed barring Medicare/Medicaid hospitals from providing such care to minors, with narrow exceptions for intersex conditions. Twenty-five states now enforce similar bans, though courts have blocked some, like in Montana and Arkansas.

Proponents argue these changes protect vulnerable youth from unproven interventions, with detransitioners sharing stories of regret and physical harm. Critics, including transgender advocates waving flags outside the Capitol, warn of denied lifesaving care, citing studies showing reduced suicide risks with access. As 28 more lawsuits loom, Varian's win may herald an era of accountability and sanity. — Rebecca Terrell

Costa Rican Elections Swing Right

The latest Latin American country to swing to the right is tiny Costa Rica, which recently elected as president Laura Fernandez, a conservative populist firebrand. Fernandez is the standard-bearer for a new political party, Pueblo Soberano (Sovereign People), founded in 2022. The president-elect promised to work to transform Costa Rica's foundering economy and to combat an array of social ills, including rising crime.

To most Americans, Costa Rica is a tropical paradise like no other, blessed with a plethora of gorgeous beaches, towering mountains (including a number of volcanos), and pristine rainforests brimming with colorful tropical birds and butterflies. Indeed, Costa Rica is an ecotourism getaway like no other, with a huge number of well-maintained national parks and spectacular ecolodges. The people are friendly, the lifestyle relaxed, and foreign visitors and residents are welcome, which is why so many American retirees and digital nomads have chosen to relocate to Costa Rica, and why millions of tourists annually spend their vacations there. Costa Rica has little of the grubbiness and corruption typical of much of the rest of Latin America, although the standard of living is no higher than that of its Central American neighbors.

Costa Rica has long had a reputation for being a model of "respectable" leftism, with its heavy emphasis on environmental protection, and its unique status as the first (and so far, only) modern country to disband its military. Costa Rica is the first country to create an economy based almost entirely on ecotourism, relying for most of its income on the spending of foreign

backpackers, bird watchers, scuba divers, and the like to buoy the local economy, even as close to 90 percent of the country's land was set aside for ecological preservation.

This state of affairs has certainly been a boon for bird watchers and outdoorsy people in general, but, as it turns out, not so much for the local population. Costa Rica is far from the only tropical country to use a tourist-centered economic model while maintaining socialist controls on all other sectors, and it is turning out the same as in the likes of Sri Lanka and Nepal: foreigners flock to certain areas, enriching the local hospitality industry and government officials—but little else.

Costa Rica has also experienced a rise in violent crime in recent years—nothing on the scale of Honduras, Mexico, or El Salvador, but significant nonetheless, for a country where "Pura vida" ("pure life") is actually a salutation.

In recent years, leftist Costa Rica has been quietly re-orienting itself. The previous president, Rodrigo Chaves, a former World Bank official, was elected as a typical social democrat, but moved steadily rightwards in office, especially on social issues. Last year, Chaves banned abortion in all instances except when the life of the mother is in jeopardy, marking one of the only instances where a Western country, having once legalized abortion on demand, has done an about face. Chaves gave his full support to Fernandez in a crowded field of presidential candidates, even though Fernandez represents a novel and anti-establishment party, and Fernandez responded by winning nearly 50 percent of all votes cast, thereby avoiding a runoff. As president, Fernandez is promising to respect Costa Rica's long tradition of conservationism, while making reasonable development and extraction of natural resources a possibility. She is also promising to follow the example of Salvadoran president Nayib Bukele, who rivals Argentina's Javier Milei in popularity and influence across Latin America. Bukele, to the consternation of American radical Leftists, has shown conclusively that it is possible to both enforce laws and to maintain a free and open society by transforming El Salvador from the world's most dangerous country to the world's safest country in a very short time. Costa Rica joins El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama as the latest country in Central America to hop on the wave of liberty, law, and order — or what is derisively styled in the legacy media "right-wing populism." — Steve Bonta

The Babson Pattern: Echoes of Past Crashes and a Looming Chinese Trigger

In 1929, economist Roger Babson warned of an impending stock market crash, only to be ridiculed by Wall Street. Forty-seven days later, the market plummeted, ushering in the Great Depression. Babson wasn't guessing; he identified a five-stage pattern that precedes major financial collapses, a sequence that has repeated in the crashes of 1929, 1987, 2000, and 2008. Today, with four stages active, this framework is a red flag.

Lazard Geopolitical advisory group expressed concern in a recent report that tensions between China and the EU may possibly provide a trigger for a wider economic event. They cite Chinese industrial overcapacity and the EU's protective backlash, which could ripple through the tech-dependent U.S. and Western economies.

The Babson pattern unfolds as follows: First, a credit explosion, where debt surges unsustainably, fueling bubbles. In 1929, margin debt equaled the federal budget; in 2008, subprime mortgages hid leverage. In 2026, an immense amount of debt is being generated as data centers are built and energy, construction, and real estate companies take out loans to facilitate them. Second, the concentration trap, where market value clusters in a few assets, heightening fragility. The 1929 "glamour stocks" like RCA mirrored the 2000 dot-com giants and today's "Magnificent Seven" tech firms, comprising over 30 percent of the S&P 500. Third, smart money exit: Institutions quietly sell while retail investors pile in. Pre-1929, figures like Rockefeller divested; in 2007, hedge funds shorted subprimes as executives dumped shares. Fourth, liquidity illusion: Surface calm masks draining reserves, often from rate hikes. The Fed's 1928-29 and 2007 actions preceded vanishing bids. Finally, a trigger — an unforeseen event — ignites the primed system, like the 1929 arrest of British financier Clarence Hatry or 2008's Lehman failure.

This pattern tracked eerily across eras: 1987's Black Monday followed leveraged euphoria; 2000's dot-com bust exposed tech over-concentration; 2008's crisis stemmed from debt-fueled housing. Now, in 2026, with stages one through four ablaze, U.S. debt-to-GDP exceeds 1929 levels and tech dominance amplifies risks.

Enter Chinese overcapacity: Beijing's subsidies under "Made in China 2025" have flooded markets with excess electric vehicles (EVs), solar panels, batteries, and semiconductors, with utilization rates as low as 50-76 percent. This "China shock" undercuts global competitors, collapsing Europe's solar industry and threatening wind and EV sectors. The EU's response — tariffs up to 100 percent on Chinese EVs and restrictions on solar — aims to counter distortions but risks retaliation, including export curbs on critical minerals.

These ripples could devastate the tech sector, upon which the U.S. and West rely heavily. China's dominance in legacy chips and EV components feeds AI, renewables, and semiconductors — key to the Magnificent Seven's valuations. Escalating trade wars might trigger shortages, spiking costs and forcing asset sales in over-leveraged markets. With U.S. dependencies exposed, a misstep — like a full mineral ban — could be Babson's trigger, cascading into a wider economic event.

Babson's lesson endures: Patterns persist. Just as the 1929 stock sweetheart, RCA, was based on the new tech of the day [i.e., radio], the 2000 stock market was dominated by the new tech of that day [internet stocks] and today it's A.I., with the stock market heavily tied to the aforementioned Magnificent Seven companies [i.e., Alphabet, Apple, Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia and Tesla]. If rare earth elements and other inputs are disrupted by trade wars (triggered as innocently as the EU blocking China), we are in for massive shocks to the global financial system. — Rebecca Terrell

UN's Congratulatory Letter to Iran on the Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution: Dark, Even by UN Standards

As if any more evidence were needed of the UN's true nature, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent a letter to Iran Wednesday congratulating the blood-soaked Islamo-fascist regime on the anniversary of its founding. In the midst of an ongoing and unprecedented massacre of its own citizens for last month's protest against the regime, Guterres congratulated Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and characterized the day as a time for Iran to reflect on the country's role and contributions. And in a particularly ironic touch, he supposedly urged Iran to uphold peace, security, and human rights.

Even by UN standards, Guterres' action is appalling. In two blood-soaked nights last month, January 8th and 9th, the Iranian government, with the help of Islamist mercenary militias, slaughtered tens of thousands of its own citizens, most of them young men, young women, and small children. Despite an internet blackout imposed before and during the horrific deed, videos of the atrocity have been leaking out, leaving no doubt as to the scale of the butchery, one of the most lethal short-term actions of any government against its own people in modern times. And the slaughter continues apace. Tens of thousands more are in prison awaiting execution, and the country remains on lockdown, with Iran's secret police continuing to arrest hundreds every day. The images of human bodies stacked like cordwood outside mortuaries are among the most searing yet to emerge in this young century, and Iran, already a pariah among nations, seems bent on desolating its own populace rather than turning away from its reign of terror.

Nevertheless, Guterres' United Nations has the backs of the Iranian mullahs and their Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) butchers. And in a final indignity, the UN has invited Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to address the UN Human Rights Council in just two weeks.

Given all of this, along with the obvious preparations for U.S. military action to put an end to the Iranian regime, President Trump's recent remarks to Politico in defense of the UN and its "tremendous potential" are utterly baffling. It is long past time for the United States to stop playing footsy with this globalist abomination, friend of communists, socialists, Islamists, terrorists, and democidal regimes of every stripe, and get out of the UN completely. — Steve Bonta

The Evolving Battle Over Vaccine Mandates and Informed Consent in America

In early February, Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo made headlines by announcing the state's intention to become the first in the nation to eliminate all vaccine mandates, extending beyond Covid-19 requirements to include longstanding immunizations for diseases like measles, polio, and hepatitis B. Speaking at a press conference, Ladapo framed the move as a defense of personal liberty, declaring, "Your body is a gift from God... Government does not have that right." This policy shift, initially proposed in September 2025 by Governor Ron DeSantis and Ladapo, aims to dismantle mandates for schools, nursing homes, and other institutions, arguing they infringe on individual autonomy. If enacted by the legislature, it could start a ripple effect, as more people are waking up to the truth about vaccines.

Ladapo's announcement sparked widespread debate with many Americans celebrating the push for "medical freedom." Supporters argue it empowers parents and individuals, aligning with a broader post-Covid anti-mandate sentiment. Critics condemned it as a dangerous rollback that could endanger vulnerable populations, such as immuno-compromised children. As of this month, bills like SB 1756 have advanced in the Florida Senate, expanding exemptions but stopping short of a full ban, amid reports of measles cases fueling the controversy. Public health officials fear this could inspire similar actions in conservative states like Idaho, which has already followed suit.

Compounding these concerns is a parallel issue raised by whistleblowers who claim that hospitals are subtly replacing the term "vaccine" on consent forms with hazier terms like "biologics" or "biogenics." While these seemingly esoteric words are in fact well-known categories in FDA regulatory literature, they may be obscure for the average person. This shift could enable medical staff to administer vaccines, gene therapies, or monoclonal antibodies without explicit patient consent, especially during surgeries when patients are under anesthesia. Opponents point to the U.S. FDA's definition of biologics, which encompasses vaccines alongside blood products and stem cells, suggesting hospitals exploit this ambiguity to bypass informed consent laws.

However, the foundational text "Principles of Biomedical Ethics" by Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress, established four categories that uphold medical ethics: Nonmaleficence, Beneficence, Justice, and Autonomy. This last category of Autonomy is what is at issue if patients are not being given enough clarity to intelligently grant informed consent to a procedure. If the medical establishment employs vague, abstruse terms on consent forms—such as reclassifying "vaccines" under broad categories like "biologics" or "biogenics" — this practice undermines the core elements of informed consent by obscuring the specific nature, risks, and implications of the procedures, thereby preventing patients from achieving the substantial understanding necessary for autonomous decision-making.

Regardless, no federal investigations have yet confirmed the allegations of widespread word-substitution on consent-forms. Let the patient beware. — Rebecca Terrell

EU Officials' Candid Admissions of Migration as Demographic Remedy

In recent months, European Union officials from member states have increasingly voiced the "quiet part out loud" — making explicit acknowledgments that large-scale migration, facilitated through trade agreements like those with India, is intended to offset Europe's plummeting birth rates and aging populations. This shift in rhetoric marks a departure from veiled discussions on labor shortages, revealing a strategic push to reshape the continent's demographics under the guise of economic necessity.

A pivotal example emerged from Greece, where Defense Minister Nikos Dendias stated during a public address that Europe's "population growth is almost negative," necessitating an influx of young workers. He singled out India as "one of the best choices for legal migration." This comment aligns with ongoing EU-India trade negotiations, which include provisions for easier worker mobility, potentially allowing millions of Indians to enter the European labor market. Proponents argue this addresses acute shortages in sectors like IT and healthcare, but detractors see it as a deliberate demographic overhaul, bypassing efforts to boost native birth rates through family incentives or affordable housing.

Similarly, in Spain, former Equality Minister Irene Montero sparked outrage by openly endorsing a "replacement" of right-wing voters with migrants. In a speech, she urged migrants not to "leave us alone with so many right-wingers," advocating for nationality law changes to enable their voting rights. "Of course I hope [for] replacement theory," she said, aiming to "sweep right-wingers [and] racists from this country" with "hardworking people" from diverse backgrounds. This candid admission, captured in viral footage, underscores how some officials view migration not just as economic filler but as a political tool to alter electoral landscapes.

Even beyond strict EU borders, similar sentiments echo in deals like Serbia's agreement with Ghana for 100,000 work permits to combat its "catastrophic demographic challenge," including low fertility and emigration. While Serbia isn't an EU member, its policies reflect broader European trends, where migration will be used to compensate for shrinking native populations.

Official EU reports reinforce this narrative. The Joint Research Centre's analysis projects a 5 percent EU population decline by mid-century due to low fertility, with migration offering only partial offset. The European Council on Foreign Relations warns there's "no credible scenario" for tackling demographic decline without external migrants, emphasizing partnerships with countries like India to demographically terraform Europe. What the Council on Foreign Relations-types

don't want people to know is that there are other steps countries can take to boost birth-rates.

Hungary, for instance, has instituted pro-natalist policies under Viktor Orbán, spending around 5 percent of GDP on family support. Key incentives include lifetime personal income tax exemptions for mothers with three or more children.

Poland's flagship "Family 800+" program provides monthly cash allowances per child (around €187 as of recent updates), initially for two or more children and later expanded. This direct support has reduced child poverty and modestly lifted births, particularly for second and third children, by removing economic barriers to family growth.

Most recently, the UK scrapped the two-child benefit cap in the Autumn Budget 2025, announced by Chancellor Rachel Reeves. Effective April 2026, Universal Credit families will claim child-related payments for all children, not just the first two. It aims to remove a disincentive to larger families amid the UK's record-low fertility rate of 1.41 children per woman in 2024.These policies highlight varied approaches — tax relief, cash transfers, and benefit expansionsn— to support families and address falling birth rates. Contrary to the Council on Foreign Relations' rhetoric, you don't have to revert to Vietnam War talking-points and "burn the village to save it." Likewise, it's not necessary to erase ancient peoples and cultures to "save" them. — Rebecca Terrell

Illegal Chinese Biolabs on U.S. Soil Signal Escalating Biosecurity Threats and Government Inaction

In late January, federal and local authorities executed a search warrant at a Las Vegas residence following a tip that raised concerns about possible illegal biological activity. What investigators discovered highlights a troubling vulnerability in America's biosecurity framework — one already exposed by a similar case in California just three years earlier.

Inside the Las Vegas home, law enforcement officials found laboratory equipment including centrifuges, refrigerators, and more than 1,000 vials containing unidentified substances. The materials were seized and sent for testing to determine whether they pose risks to public health, agriculture, or the environment. The operation was conducted jointly by the FBI and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

Property records show the home was owned by an LLC linked to Jia Bei Zhu, a Chinese national currently in federal custody in connection with an unlicensed laboratory discovered in Reedley, California, in 2023. Zhu — who has used aliases including David He and Jesse Zhu — faces federal charges related to manufacturing misbranded medical devices and making false statements to investigators in that earlier case.

The Reedley incident stunned local and state officials. What began as a routine code-enforcement inspection led to the discovery of an unlicensed warehouse laboratory containing hundreds of lab mice, biological materials, chemical containers, and medical waste. The facility operated under business names including Prestige Biotech and Universal Meditech Inc. Because no single federal agency had clear jurisdiction, local health officials were initially left to manage a site involving potentially hazardous materials.

A subsequent investigation by the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party warned that such regulatory gaps create serious national vulnerabilities. The committee emphasized that poor coordination among federal agencies allows illicit laboratories — whether motivated by profit, negligence, or sleeper-cell attacks — to operate undetected in American communities.

Despite early claims of Ebola, authorities have not publicly confirmed that either the Reedley or Las Vegas

facilities contained viable bioweapons. Testing of the seized materials is ongoing. In the Las Vegas case, individuals who entered the property reported symptoms of illness. However, investigators have not confirmed a causal link between those symptoms and the materials found at the residence, and no outbreaks have yet been identified.

What is beyond dispute is how both cases were uncovered. Neither was discovered through assertive federal oversight. In Reedley, a garden-hose violation triggered the inspection. In Las Vegas, a routine call led officers to a garage filled with lab equipment. In both instances, local code enforcement — not federal biosecurity agencies — was the first line of defense. Lawmakers, including Republican Rep. Kevin Kiley of California, have called for hearings and legislation to close these gaps.

The situation recalls that in 1999, two senior colonels in China's People's Liberation Army published "Unrestricted Warfare," a strategic manual that has been widely interpreted as a blueprint for the Chinese Communist Party's asymmetric campaigns against adversaries like the United States, advocating the use of all available means — including attacking civilian targets — to undermine enemies without direct military confrontation. Supporting such strategies are long-term sleeper agents, known in Chinese intelligence jargon as "chen di yu" or "fish at the bottom of the ocean" — deep-cover operatives embedded in foreign societies who remain dormant until activated for espionage, sabotage, or influence operations. — Rebecca Terrell

School Bond Fiasco Poses Potential Black Swan for the U.S. Economy

Amid rising borrowing by U.S. public school districts, questions have emerged about the sustainability of school-related municipal bonds and whether systemic issues — like fraudulent appraisal practices or debt structures — could pose broader economic risks. In 2025, school districts issued approximately $82 billion in municipal bonds, marking a nearly 42 percent increase from 2024 and the highest level in over a decade, according to Bloomberg. This surge reflects pressures from declining enrollment, inflation-driven costs, and the end of pandemic-era federal aid, prompting districts to tap the bond market for infrastructure, operations, and other needs.

The broader municipal bond market remains robust, with total outstanding debt around $4.4 trillion as of late 2025 (per Securities Information and Financial Markets Association statistics). School districts represent a notable but not dominant portion — estimates from earlier analyses place direct school district debt in the range of $450 billion to low trillions when including related issuances. Isolated cases of misconduct have drawn regulatory attention: The SEC has pursued enforcement actions against certain districts for misleading disclosures in bond offerings, such as underreporting liabilities (e.g., Crosby ISD in Texas in 2022) or false compliance statements (e.g., West Clark Community Schools in Indiana in 2013). Riskier instruments like capital appreciation bonds have also drawn criticism in the past for ballooning repayment obligations, as seen in some California districts where borrowed amounts escalated dramatically over time.

Whistleblowers, including real estate developer Mitch Vexler, have alleged far larger problems, claiming inflated property appraisals in some areas enable excessive taxation and bond issuance, potentially creating unsustainable debt burdens that could reach trillions in aggregate exposure. These claims suggest a "Ponzi-like" dynamic where overvaluations support borrowing that burdens taxpayers. If significant defaults were to occur — particularly in lower-rated or charter school segments — impacts could include higher borrowing costs for issuers, losses for bondholders (such as pensions and banks), and localized strains on property markets or local budgets. Broader economic ripple effects are possible. In the past, the municipal market's overall resilience, backed by diverse revenue sources, has historically limited systemic fallout. But questions remain for whether this would be the case when faced with wider malfeasance. For context, there is a parallel with the 2012 LIBOR manipulation scandal, where distorted rates contributed to mispriced credit and amplified housing risks — but LIBOR involved global interbank submissions, not local appraisals or school bonds directly.

Whistleblowers worry that inflated property appraisals will continue to fuel an unsustainable borrowing spree, where school districts issue bonds to fund operations or even to pay interest on old bond, only to burden taxpayers with compounding interest that could trigger a chain reaction across the real estate sector (and then the wider society). Critics say that the mechanism is insidious. Central appraisal districts (CADs) allegedly overvalue properties to inflate tax revenues, enabling school districts to secure larger bonds without competitive bidding or proper oversight. If this emerging trend is widespread, it could erupt into wider economic turmoil. — Rebecca Terrell

Trump's Critical Minerals Initiative: Decoupling From China but Making Enemies at Home

The Trump administration has unveiled a bold strategy to reshape global supply chains for critical minerals, launching "Project Vault" — a $12 billion public-private stockpile aimed at shielding U.S. manufacturers from volatility and reducing reliance on China. This initiative, highlighted at a ministerial summit with 55 nations, proposes a preferential trade bloc with allies, including price floors to counter Beijing's market dominance. Essential for electric vehicles, defense tech, and semiconductors, minerals and rare earth elements are now at the heart of U.S.-China tensions.

As Chris Miller argues in his book *Chip War*, microchips have become "the new oil" — the scarce resource powering modern economies and militaries. China, which imports more chips than oil annually, is investing billions to dominate production, shifting future conflicts from petroleum to raw materials for semiconductors. Miller warns that control over these elements could determine geopolitical supremacy, with the U.S. vulnerable due to China's 70 to 90 percent grip on rare earth mining and processing. Compounding this, more than 90 percent of the world's most advanced semiconductors — critical for everyday electronics like smartphones, cars, and AI systems — are produced by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) in Taiwan. This concentration heightens tensions: a potential war between China and Taiwan could devastate global supply chains, halting chip production and causing shortages that disrupt electronics worldwide, with economic losses estimated at up to $10 trillion in the first year alone.

This push builds on escalating rivalries. Under Biden, the U.S. rallied Japan and the Netherlands — home to key firms like ASML and Tokyo Electron — to impose export controls on advanced chipmaking equipment to China starting in 2023, aiming to hobble Beijing's military modernization. China retaliated in 2025 with stringent rare earth export restrictions, banning supplies for foreign military uses and requiring licenses for tech involving semiconductors, disrupting Western supply chains. This tit-for-tat exposed U.S. dependencies, prompting a pivot to domestic sourcing. Trump's executive orders streamlined permitting and opened federal lands for mining.

Yet, this drive has stirred controversy at home. Farmers face a surge in eminent domain cases, with suspicions that government-mapped lithium and nickel deposits lie beneath their properties. In South Dakota's Black Hills, pegmatite-rich areas draw exploratory mining for lithium, fueling land seizures amid a five-fold projected increase in global critical mineral demand by 2050. Bills to regulate such activities have failed, leaving rural communities wary of federal overreach in the name of national security.

During his 2016 presidential campaign, Donald Trump faced sharp criticism—particularly from fellow conservatives and libertarians—for his longstanding support of eminent domain seizures. In 2005, Trump publicly endorsed the controversial Supreme Court decision in *Kelo v. City of New London*, which allowed eminent domain for economic development purposes.

Trump's newest initiative, to propose the possibility of a new trade bloc, signals a multipolar shift toward economic nationalism. While bolstering resilience against Taiwan and Chinese, it risks alienating allies at home. — Rebecca Terrell

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Domestic Enemies Then and Now

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